Adjournment Motion re: closing of Murinjatheri Road.

President.—The Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthi has brought an adjournment motion to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. It is clearly a matter of public importance, but I don't think it is very urgent. The motion is:—

Under Rule 18 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to move that the business of the Council be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent business of public importance, viz., the contemplated closing of a Panchayat Road now used by all classes and communities at Murinjatheri (മുറിഞ്ഞകത്തെരി) in Cheruviruthi Constituency, thereby depriving the rights and privileges enjoyed by non-caste Hindus and Christians, etc.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—If I don't move and stop that—the plan has already been placed in the hands of the Chief Engineer—the road will be diverted and the Christians and the non-caste Hindus will be deprived of their rights. I understand from the papers in my possession that the Government are contemplating to divert the road under the pretence that the temple is near the road. It will cause great inconvenience to the rural population who are using this road now.

President.—It is not a matter of urgency. What is the urgency in it?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—This is the urgency. I want to prevent the occurrence of any such thing at such a time as this. What is the use of coming here after the event has taken place? The privilege of a large section of the people are proposed to be deprived by this contemplated action of Government to close that road and opening a bypath.

President.—At what stage is it now?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—The opening of the road is only under consideration. We have been asked to prepare an estimate. No definite orders have been passed on that matter.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Here is the communication that has passed between the Chief Engineer and the Government. From it I understand that we have come to a stage as to who should bear the expenditure and all that; and I want this matter to be brought to the notice of the Government before final orders are passed. That is all my object.

President.—It seems that there is no urgent necessity for it. I think you can well have a resolution.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—From the correspondence I understand that the Devaswam is to bear the cost of expenditure. I have nothing to do with the Devaswam. They may remove the temple to anywhere they like. There are other correspondences also on the subject.

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President.—The Registrar of Panchayats says that another place is provided with all the facilities. The matter is under contemplation. So there is no urgent necessity for the motion.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Next time Government will say that the road will be completely closed. That is the urgency in the matter. I can go only by the correspondence here.

President.—The matter may be brought before the House in another form when an allotment is moved.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sir, suppose the allotment is made from the Devaswam department. It would not come before the Council.

President.—I cannot admit it under the rules because there is no urgency in the matter.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I have no objection to withdraw the motion. My idea was only to bring this matter to the notice of the Government.

Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.

Village Panchayat Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I rise to move that the Cochin Village Panchayat Regulation amendment bill be taken up and passed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second it.

Motion put and carried.

Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I beg to move that the Cochin Municipal Regulation amendment bill be taken up and passed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Amendments to Standing Orders (*consideration of.*)

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I beg to present the Select Committee Report on the amendments to Standing Orders 9 and 23. In submitting this report I beg to state that one of the amendments has been unanimously accepted by the Committee and the second amendment has not been accepted and therefore I do not press the second one but I press only the first.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—There is no objection for taking the amendment to S. O. 9.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move that the amendment as reported by the Select Committee be taken up for consideration.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—I second it.

The following amendment was put and carried.

Aad the following to Standing Order No. 9 "and the President may, if required, extend the time for the asking and answering of questions".

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